

# Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

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## **Nominations Sought for 2009 Governor's Award for Quality Care**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 Governor's Award for Quality Care in Health Care Facilities. The Governor's Award recognizes Iowa health care facilities that provide the highest quality of care to their residents. Nominations are open to all health care facilities licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135C, which include nursing facilities, residential care facilities, residential care facilities for persons with mental illness or mental retardation, and intermediate care facilities, including those facilities specializing in the care of persons with mental illness or mental retardation. Not eligible for nomination are assisted living programs, elder group homes, or hospital-based nursing facilities as these facilities are not licensed under the Iowa Code chapter establishing this Award program.

Last year, seven long-term care facilities were recognized for the quality of care provided to their residents. Selected to receive a 2008 Governor's Award were Sunnycrest Manor in Dubuque, Oelwein Health Care Center in Oelwein, Burling House in Charles City, Arbor Springs in West Des Moines, Happy Siesta Health Care Center in Remsen, Community Memorial Health Center in Hartley, and Heritage Nursing Home in Bancroft. Since the first awards were presented in 2001, a total of 38 facilities have received the Award.

Residents, family members, or members of a facility's resident advocate committee may nominate an Iowa-licensed long-term care facility for the award. Facilities may not nominate themselves for this recognition. In order to be considered for a 2008 Governor's Award, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) must receive the nomination by the close of business on March 2, 2009. Nomination forms may be obtained by calling DIA's Health Facilities Division at (515) 281-4115. Forms may also be downloaded from the Department's web site at <http://dia.iowa.gov>.

All nominations must clearly state the reason the facility should be considered, any unique services provided by the facility to its residents, and any activities undertaken by the facility to enhance the quality of care or quality of life for its residents. Upon receipt by DIA, the nominations will be evaluated and a list of finalists prepared. Under law, no more than two facilities from each Congressional District may be selected for a Governor's Award.

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